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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

ROMSEY & STOCKBRIDGE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ROMSEY PRESS LIMITED

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

to the

ROMSEY AND STOCKBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the report for the year, 1956. I am grateful to Mr. Smith, your Chief Public Health Inspector, who has prepared the report contained in Section C, D and E.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
E. JACKSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time, 1 day per week) Until 31st August, 1956.	S. L. MORRISON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	H. G. SMITH, CERT. S.I.B., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Public Health Inspector	D. G. ANDREWS, CERT. S.I.B., A.R.S.I.
Rodent Officer	G. RAWLINS,
Clerk	Miss J. A. PROOM.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	82,606
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	21,150

Rateable Value (1.4.1956)	£212,296
Product of each penny of General Rate (1.4.1956)	£875.11
Number of Council Houses built (before 1939) ..	422
Number of Council Houses built (after 1944) remaining in the District after transfer of Millbrook to Southampton 1954)	292
	—— 714
Number of Council Houses completed during 1956	52
Total Number of inhabited houses	5,865

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1956, as supplied by the Registrar General.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births—			
Total Registered	335	153	182
Legitimate	309	138	171
Illegitimate	26	15	11
Still Births—			
Total Registered	12	4	8
Legitimate	11	3	8
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Deaths—			
Total Registered	216	121	95
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0
Infant Mortality—			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
Total Registered	12	4	8
Legitimate	11	3	8
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :—			
Total Registered	7	2	5
Legitimate	6	1	5
Illegimate	1	1	0

	Comparative Statistics where available	
	Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District	England and Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..	16·4	15·7
Still Birth Rates per 1,000 live and still births	34·6	23·00
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10·2	11·7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year —		
All Infants per 1,000 live births ..	35·8	23·8

Comparability Factors Births—1·10 Deaths —10·3

Causes of Death during the year 1956.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	TOTAL
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	1	0	1
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases ..	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	3	7
,, ,, Lung and Bronchus ..	6	2	8
,, ,, Breast	0	1	1
,, ,, Uterus	–	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	7	9	16
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	11	14	25
Coronary Disease, Angina	25	11	36
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	1	5
Other Heart Diseases	16	19	35
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	5	8
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	3	0	3
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum ..	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	–	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	–	0	0
Congenital Malformations	0	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	18	10	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	0	5
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL	121	95	216

Comments on the Vital Statistics.

The various rates calculated from the births and deaths are similar to previous years.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. The Medical Officer of Health is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Romsey and an Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer of the Hampshire County

Council. This combined appointment helps to co-ordinate the medical services supplied by the County Council as the Local Health Authority in accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the services supplied by the District Council.

2. The County Council supply the following services :—

(*a*) *Ambulance Service.*

Ambulances are stationed at Romsey (1) and Broughton (1) and controlled from the County Council Offices at Winchester. Additional ambulances can be sent to the District from the depot at Winchester.

(*b*) *Nursing in the Home.*

District Nurses are responsible for domiciliary midwifery and home nursing. They keep in close touch with the County Council Health Visitors, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioners of their areas. No nursing arrangement or contribution is made by the District Council, but nine members represent the Council on the District Health sub-Committee of the County Council.

District Nurses.

Mrs. M. J. Beauchamp, Carew Cottage, Dunbridge.
Miss M. M. Chapman, 22, Plough Gardens, Broughton.
Miss I. C. Clarke, 1, Manor Road, East Tytherley.
Miss P. R. Cork, 8, Winfrith Way, Nursling.
Miss M. Laycock, 74, Chambers Avenue, Romsey.
Miss M. Neal, 2, New Road, Middle Wallop.
Miss S. Rowell, Nurses Cottage, West Wellow.
Miss B. D. Sharp, 74, Chambers Avenue, Romsey.
Mrs. S. A. Sheppard, 32, Eldon Road, King's Somborne.

Health Visitors :—

Miss M. L. Collins, H.C.C. Health Centre, Junction Road, Andover.
Mrs. M. Pointer, "Bryn-Coed," Newtown Road, Awbridge.
Mrs. M. E. Ward, Flat 2, Harefield House, Mile Hill, Romsey.
Mrs. C. E. Watts, 41, Newlands Avenue, Southampton.
Miss D. D. Woodcock, 48, Ashfield Road, Andover.
Miss Porter, H.C.C. Health Centre, Totton.

(*c*) *Child Welfare Services.*

The County Council employ Health Visitors, who visit children from the age of two weeks, when they pass from the care of the District Nurse, until the age of five years, when the child enters school.

In addition, the County Council hold child welfare clinics in this district as indicated :—

Broughton ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Houghton ..	2nd Monday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
King's Somborne	1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Lockerley ..	2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Leckford ..	3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Mottisfont ..	2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
North Baddesley	1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Nursling ..	2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Over Wallop ..	1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Romsey ..	Every Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
Stockbridge ..	1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
Wellow ..	2nd and 4th Friday of the month at 2.30 p.m.
West Tytherley	1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.

The child welfare clinics are staffed by Health Visitors, Assistant County Medical Officers and voluntary Helpers.

The District Nurses generally attend these clinics.

(*d*) *Care of Mothers and Young Children.*

Ante-natal supervision and dental care are provided for mothers and dental care is provided for children up to the age of five.

(*e*) *Home Help Service.*

This service is provided for mothers confined at home, for those in charge of the elderly, the chronic sick, etc. The District Health Sub-Committee receive reports.

(*f*) *Vaccination and Immunisation.*

See Section "F" of this report—Infectious Diseases Prophylaxis.

(*g*) *Prevention of Illness, care and after care.*

These services are part of the duties of health visitors and district nurses.

3. *Hospital Services.*

The South West Regional Hospital Board supply general maternity and infectious diseases (including tuberculosis and smallpox) hospital services for this area.

4. *Laboratory Facilities.*

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, The M.R.C. Laboratory, Southampton, and the Pathology Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water Supply.*

(i) During the year, one hundred and three (103) samples of water from private sources were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Of these seventy-six (76) were found to be satisfactory.

Several wells were cleansed, chlorinated, rendered internally and provided with suitable raised covers by various property-owners during the year, resulting in satisfactory bacteriological reports being thereafter obtained from the Public Health Laboratory.

In addition to samples obtained from private sources, forty-three (43) samples of water from the Council's new boreholes at the Broughton Pumping Station and from various points on the distributory mains therefrom, were submitted for bacteriological examination, with satisfactory results. Six (6) samples of water from various points on the mains were also submitted for examination for carbon dioxide content and for the presence of copper and zinc. Satisfactory results were obtained from the Public Analyst.

The summer months were particularly wet and no reports of shortage of water were received during the year.

(ii) The Southampton Corporation are the Statutory water undertakers for the following nine (9) Parishes in the southern part of the Rural District. Ampfield, Chilworth, Braishfield, Michelmersh, Mottisfont, North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Romsey Extra and Sherfield English (part).

The West Hampshire Water Company supply water to the Parishes of Melchet Park and Plaitford (part) and Wellow.

During the year, main-laying continued (see table vi) in connection with the Council's new water scheme, deriving from the two boreholes at Broughton.

Constructional work on the service reservoirs at Broughton and Sherfield English were concluded and by the end of the year, the pumping station at Broughton was practically completed.

(iii) No cases of contamination by lead were experienced during the year.

(iv) Many premises were connected to the Council's mains supply during the year (see table v) and as yet, no formal action to secure an internal pipes water supply to house premises has been necessary.

(vi) The number of houses supplied from public water mains are as follows :—

Parish	Number of Houses
Ampfield	307
Braishfield	131
Broughton	2
Chilworth	235
East Dean	46
East Tytherley	14
Frenchmoor	9
King's Somborne	27
Lockerley	130
Melchet Park and Plaitford ..	37
Michelmersh	132
North Baddesley	583
Nursling and Rownhams ..	547
Romsey Extra	121
Sherfield English	232
Wellow	302

(vi) The following extensions of water-mains were completed during the year :—

Parish	Length in yards	Diam. of Mains in inches
Ampfield ..	45	4
Ashley	4970	4
Bossington ..	3147	8
Buckholt ..	707	8
Chilworth ..	1259	6
East Tytherley ..	1683	8
Houghton ..	190	8
King's Somborne	2163	8
,, ,, ..	3910	6
,, ,, ..	2953	4
,, ,, ..	447	3
Little Somborne ..	583	4
North Baddesley ..	480	6
Nursling and Rownhams	398	4
,, ,, ,,	260	3
Romsey Extra ..	18	3
Wellow	460	3
,, ...	90	$1\frac{1}{4}$

2. *Sewerage.*

The laying of sewers in the Parish of North Baddesley continued during the year and very substantial progress was made. The laying of sewers in the Parish of Nursling and Rownhams was commenced and this scheme was well under way by the end of the year.

The following lengths of sewer were completed :—

Parish	Length in yards	Diam. of Sewers in inches
North Baddesley ..	1237	6
,, ,, ..	533	9
,, ,, ..	2633	6
,, ,, ..	2390	9
Nursling & Rownhams	1780	6
,, ,, ,,	3690	9
,, ,, ,,	197	12

3. **SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

(i) The detailed reports on properties scheduled for demolition procedure in the Council's first five-year plan were completed during the year. Several of these and other properties scheduled for demolition at a later date, became vacant and immediate demolition procedure was instigated in respect of them to prevent re-letting. Owing to the somewhat lengthy procedure under the Housing Acts, however, it was unfortunately not always possible to reach the operational stage before re-occupation occurred. Investigations were commenced to find suitable sites for constructing thirty (30) dwellings at King's Somborne, twenty (20) at Stockbridge and four (4) at Lockerley to re-house families from properties scheduled for clearance.

(ii) Fifty-two (52) Council Houses were erected during the year.

(iii) Ninety-four (94) Houses were erected by private enterprise.

(iv) Hutted camps under control of Local Authority.

Number of Huts occupied at the end of the year	Number of Huts demolished	Estimated number of persons remaining in occupation
81	31	330

(v) *Moveable Dwellings.*

There are forty-seven (47) moveable dwellings with licences and fifteen (15) licensed sites providing accommodation for one hundred and forty-five (145) caravans.

Periodical visits to all licensed sites were made and with the exception of two sites occupied by gypsy families, the general standard was most satisfactory.

The sites occupied by gypsies showed some improvement but frequent visits were necessary to encourage the maintenance of a higher standard of cleanliness and tidyness.

4. *Public Cleansing.*

The quantity of refuse collected bi-monthly by the District Council's vehicles continued to increase. Refuse from the Borough of Romsey (by agreement with this Authority) continued to be deposited at the controlled tip at Casbrook Common. Owing to the continuous heavy rainfall at the end of the year, some difficulty was experienced in reaching the normal tipping area. Eventually refuse had to be tipped to a greater depth than desirable near the tip-approach road. By arrangement, large quantities of soil excavated by the County Council from a near-by road-widening scheme is now deposited with and over the refuse and satisfactory coverage has been achieved. Ten (10) men are now employed on the collection staff.

5. **SECTION E.—FOOD.**

(i) There are now no licensed slaughter-houses in the District.

(ii) *Milk.*

Forty-one (41) samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted for examination. All proved satisfactory. There are two batch pasteurising plants in the District.

(iii) *Registration of Premises under Section* 16, *Food and Drugs Act*, 1955.

One premises only is now Registered for the Manufacture of Ice-Cream. Sixty-five (65) premises are now Registered for the Sale of Ice-Cream. Six (6) samples of ice-cream taken during the year, were all placed in Provisional Grade 1.

Ten premises are now Registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages.

One hundred and fifty-two (152) inspections of Registered premises were made during the year.

(iv) *Number of Food Premises in the Area.*

Licensed premises	54
Restaurants	16
Food stores	81
Bake-houses	4
Butchers' Shops	11
Fish Shops	2
	168

(v) *Food Hygiene Regulations* 1955–56

Many inspections of premises under the provisions of the above Regulations have been made with primary attention being given to restaurants, bake-houses, butchers and fish shops. Co-operation from shop-keepers has been generally good and most of the above types of food premises are now satisfactory.

A number of food-stores and licensed premises have also been inspected.

(vi) *Condemned Food-stuffs.*

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered and buried at the controlled tip at Casbrook Common.

1 × 6-lb. tin corned beef.
2 × 1 lb. tins plums in syrup.
1 × 15 oz. tin Apricots in syrup.
1 × 16 oz. tin Pineapple Chunks.
1 × 1 lb. tin plums in syrup.
1 × 1 lb. 12 oz. tin processed peas.

(vii) Ten (10) cases of food-poisoning occurred at The Royal Air Force Station, Middle Wallop. The cause of the outbreak was not determined.

(viii) The number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations is 15.

6. *Factories.*

(i) Inspection for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	M/c. Line No.	No. on Register	Number of			M/c. Line No.
			Inspections	Notices Written	Occup's Pros'ted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	6	10	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 in enforced by the Local Authority	2	66	38	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		72	48	—	—	

(ii) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	M/c. Line No.	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prose-cutions	M/c. Line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7)							
(a) Insufficient ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	—	—	—	—	—	60

(iii) Five (5) Outworkers were employed in the District in the making of wearing apparel. All premises were inspected and found satisfactory.

7. *Rodent Control.*

The decline in the rat population continued during the year. More infestations were reported during the late autumn and winter months, but a major infestation of the nature common a few years ago is a rarity.

The continued vigilance of the Council's rodent staff and the use of Warfarin poison appear to be the main contributing factors.

During the year four hundred and thirteen (413) agricultural surveys were made.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year are tabulated below.

Notification by age-groups.

Disease	Total Notified	Under 1 yr.	1–2 yrs.	3–4 yrs.	5–9 yrs.	10–14 yrs.	15–44 yrs.	45–64 yrs.	65 and over	Fatalities
Scarlet Fever ..	7	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–
Whooping Cough ..	24	1	4	2	14	3	–	–	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis ..										
Paralytic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Non-Paralytic ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Measles	37	1	1	3	27	1	4	–	–	–
Acute Pneumonia ..	7	–	·	–	–	1	4	2	–	–
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentery	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Enteric Fever ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Meningococcal Infection	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Food Poisoning ..	10	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Opthalmia Neonatorum	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

TUBERCULOSIS

Deaths.

Only one death from tuberculosis was recorded during 1956 and this was from tuberculosis in a site other than the lungs.

Notifications of Tuberculosis.

Fourteen (14) cases of Respiratory tuberculosis were notified during 1956.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Vaccination of school-children against tuberculosis has not yet been started in this area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROPHYLAXIS

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The estimated number of children in the area who had completed a full course of diphtheria immunisation by 31st December, 1956, was as follows :—

Children born in 1956	.. ..	34
,, ,, between	1952–55	704
,, ,, ,,	1947–51	1237
,, ,, ,,	1942–46	1192

Vaccination against Smallpox.

One hundred and ninety-six (196) vaccinations were carried out during the year and of these, one hundred and sixteen (116) were primary vaccinations of small children, thirty-eight (38) primary vaccinations of those more than one year old and the remaining forty-two (42) were re-vaccinations.

The figure for babies vaccinated expressed as a percentage of the live births represents only 34.3 per cent. This figure is not only low but lower than in any other Rural District in Hampshire.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

A small amount of poliomyelitis vaccine was manufactured during 1956 and this was allocated by the Medical Research Council to a proportion of the children whose names had been registered for vaccination. The allocation was planned to enable a satisfactory evaluation of the efficacy of the vaccine to be made by the Medical Research Council.

Twenty-one (21) children living in the Rural District were vaccinated.

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